

namely jenmom lands, and in regard to lands under long leases covering 10 acres and upwards. The present election rules were very vague and they gave infinite latitude to the revenue officers under whose supervision elections were held. In the rules proposed to be revised, the powers of the Tahsildar who wielded great influence over elections should be curtailed. The rules for the Municipal councils might suffice for the Assembly also. The Peishkars generally did not take up earnestly defects in elections brought to their notice and they oftentimes wished to avoid having a new election. A special officer should be empowered to go into the election question and election lists should be published from time to time. In the Member's opinion, it was desirable to appoint judicial officers in place of revenue officers, as officers responsible for elections. The Member suggested that judicial officers, preferably Munsiffs, and wherever they were absent Stationary Magistrates, might be authorised to conduct election enquiries as people had some faith in their judicious method of work. The Member also suggested that the lower limit of the income qualification should be between Rs. 250 and Rs. 300 a year.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

167. (a) Establishment of Taluk Boards throughout the State and entrusting all Maramat works not costing over Rs. 20,000 to them.

(b) Constitution of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly under Legislative Enactment.

Mr. Lona Ouseph (Member, Municipal Council, Parur) said that in respect of administrative rights and privileges, Travancoreans who were more advanced and educated than the people of British India had not at present even a tenth of the rights and privileges conferred on the latter by the British Indian Government. The Member was thankful for the assurance given in the opening Address in regard to certain reforms in administrative matters and suggested that the following reforms might be introduced :

(a) The majority of the members of the Legislative Council should be non-official representatives of the people; and the Council should be empowered to pass the Budget.

(b) Local Boards should be introduced in every taluk, the Members and President thereof being elected by the people. All maramat works not costing more than Rs. 20,000 should be entrusted to them.

(c) The constitution and working of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly should be based on a legislative enactment and the Assembly should be empowered to consider and pass resolutions on administrative questions. If the proposed Legislative Council did not alter such resolutions, Government should accept such resolutions and a Proclamation should be issued accordingly.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

168. Unsympathetic attitude of Government towards Ezhava problems.

Mr. T. K. Madhavan (Member, Nominated) said that his brother members had already made representations about the grievances of the Ezhava community and requested that their representations might be given fair consideration. He then submitted two memorials signed by the Ezhava members of the Assembly, one about the Ezhava Bill and the other about the admission of Ezhavas into temples.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

169. Needs of the Kunnattur Taluk.

Mr. R. Madhavan Onnithan (Member, Kunnattur Taluk) stated that the Adur lower grade English school was a flourishing institution with a strength of 207 pupils. The Government was realising a net income of at least Rs. 500 per year from the school. The strength of the school was steadily increasing and it was likely that the neighbouring schools of Tumpaman and Pattanamtitta would serve as feeder institutions for a High School at Adur. He, therefore, requested that Form IV

might be opened in the school, from the next school year. The people of the place had provided the necessary accommodation by the construction of a very substantial building at a cost of nearly Rs. 28,000. They were also desirous of constructing a hostel building attached to the school, if only Government would help them with a building grant and the gift of some timber. The opening of the High School was urged to be all the more advisable since the inhabitants of Adur were extremely backward in point of literacy.

The Member also represented the necessity for the following works :—

1. Improving the river bund of Western Kallada.

In regard to this, he submitted that the bund which was constructed about the year 1061 M. E. gave way at several points during the heavy floods of 1090 causing considerable damage to life and property, that, though some petty repairs were since carried out, they were very inadequate, and that consequently for want of protective measures, the people were in perpetual dread of a recurrence of the flood and hesitated to cultivate the paddy lands below. The Chief Engineer had submitted an estimate for improving the bund and the drainage arrangements of Kallada, but the work had not been taken up for want of funds. The Member therefore prayed that the work be taken in hand without further delay.

2. Constructing a flight of steps leading to the Puthiakavu chira from the road and a protecting wall on the eastern side of the road adjoining the chira. The Member submitted that the improvement of the chira, besides being a work of public utility, would also be very useful to the pupils of the new English school at Adur.

3. Conversion of the Kaipattur-Koni village road into a cart road. At present Koni was reached by a round about road of 10 miles *via* Pattanamtitta crossing the river twice. There was a village road running straight for Kaipattur to Koni, a distance of only 6 miles, and it could easily be converted into a cartable road. A small bridge over a canal was alone necessary.

Dewan's reply.—Orders will issue for the opening of Form IV from the commencement of the next school year. The other matters will receive attention.

The consideration of the subjects being over, Mr. Janardanan Pillai, Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey, addressed the Dewan as follows :—

SIR,

On behalf of the Members of the Seventeenth Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, I request you to kindly convey our feelings of deep loyalty and devotion to the Throne and Person of His Gracious Highness the Maha Raja.

We have also very great pleasure in taking advantage of this opportunity to thank you for your uniform courtesy and patience in guiding the deliberations of this Assembly. We have to particularly mention our thanks for your earnest endeavour to give definite replies to our representations wherever possible and for your good intentions in explaining the position of Government in all cases, so as to satisfy the Members.

Your opening Address shows your readiness to confer with the people on matters of general importance and we are thankful to you for all the sentiments contained therein and for the kind promises made regarding the various measures of reform.

Your opening Address and the replies given to our representations have created in us great hopes regarding the future of our country, and we hope your tenure of office will be the beginning of an era of all-round progress.

Once again, on behalf of the members, I thank you for all your kindness.

THE DEWAN'S REPLY.

The Dewan then replied thus :—

Gentlemen,

We have come to the close of our business. But, before we part, it is my duty to tell you how thankful I feel to you for the great help you have rendered to Government by your deliberations. Mr. Janardanan Pillai has said many kind things of me on your behalf. I am not sure that I deserve them all. At the same time I am glad that you appreciate the way in which I have conducted this Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, and I personally am gratified that one result of this Assembly—not to speak of other good results that are bound to follow from the periodical sessions of this Assembly—is the better understanding that has been brought about between you, the representatives of the people, and me, the representative of Government. We part with a better understanding of each other than when we met. I do not think I need dilate on the usefulness of this Assembly. Those that have sat here and witnessed its deliberations could bear ample testimony to the effective and forceful way in which the views of the people in regard to questions of administrative importance and of local needs have been brought to the notice of Government. We have been occasionally treated to rare flights of oratory ; but that apart, the discussions have been, if I may be permitted to say so, characterised by moderation, a desire to understand the difficulties of Government and a genuine desire to co-operate with and help Government. I must once more thank you for the spirit you have evinced throughout your deliberations.

Finally, Gentlemen, it will give me very great pleasure, and I consider it a great privilege, to place before His Highness the Maha Raja, your sentiments of loyalty and devotion to his Person and Throne. With these words, I bid you farewell.

The proceedings of the Seventeenth Session of the Assembly were then brought to a close with cheers to His Majesty the King Emperor, His Highness the Maha Raja and the Dewan.

The Assembly dissolved at 2-10 P. M.
